

**In the Claims**

For the convenience of the Examiner, all pending claims are set forth below, whether or not an amendment has been made. Please refer to Appendix A for mark-ups reflecting changes to the claims. Please amend the claims as follows:

2. (Allowed) The device of Claim 7, wherein the device is a switching unit further comprising a backplane and the network comprises a control bus.

3. (Allowed) The device of Claim 7, wherein the message packet is a physical layer message packet and the data packet comprises a message packet associated with a higher level protocol comprising one of:

Internet Protocol (IP);

Transmission Control Protocol (TCP); and

User Datagram Protocol (UDP).

4. (Allowed) The device of Claim 7, wherein the arbitration code comprises:  
a message priority code; and  
a sender address.

5. (Allowed) The device of Claim 7, wherein the sender is operable to determine that it may not communicate the data packet if the first value does not match the network value.

7. (Allowed) A telecommunications device, comprising:  
a local area network; and  
a sender coupled to the network and operable to generate a message packet comprising an arbitration code and a data packet, the sender operable to communicate a first value of the arbitration code using the network and to determine a network value, the sender operable to compare the first value with the network value to determine whether the sender may communicate the data packet using the network and further operable to communicate a second value of the arbitration code using the network if the first value matches the network value;

the first and second values of the arbitration code comprising one of:

~~first and second message priority code values;~~

a first message priority code value and a second sender address value; and first and second sender address values.

8. **(Allowed)** The device of Claim 7, further comprising a second sender coupled to the network and operable to generate a second message packet comprising an arbitration code and a data packet, the second sender operable to communicate a first value of the arbitration code for the second message packet using the network and to determine the network value, the second sender operable to compare the first value for the second message packet with the network value to determine whether the second sender may communicate the data packet for the second message packet using the network.

9. **(Allowed)** The device of Claim 7, wherein the message packet further comprises a destination code, the sender operable to communicate the data packet to one or more receivers as a point-to-point, multi-cast, or broadcast message according to the destination code.

10. **(Allowed)** A telecommunications device, comprising:  
a local area network;  
a sender coupled to the network and operable to generate a message packet comprising an arbitration code and a data packet, the sender operable to communicate a first value of the arbitration code using the network and to determine a network value, the sender operable to compare the first value with the network value to determine whether the sender may communicate the data packet using the network; and

a plurality of receivers also coupled to the network, the message packet further comprising a destination code having values for a plurality of positions, each position corresponding to a particular receiver, the sender identifying one or more receivers for the message packet according to the values of the positions corresponding to the receivers.

11. **(Allowed)** The device of Claim 10, wherein each receiver has an associated receive code comprising values for a plurality of positions, each position corresponding to a particular receiver, each receiver operable to receive the destination code and to compare the value for at least one position of the destination code with the value for at least one position of

the receive code, each receiver operable to determine whether to receive the data packet according to the comparison.

12. **(Allowed)** The device of Claim 11, wherein at least one of the receivers is operable to perform network snooping according to its associated receive code.

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**Please cancel Claim 13 without prejudice or disclaimer.**

14. **(Amended)** The device of Claim 17, wherein the device is a switching unit further comprising a backplane and the network comprises a control bus.

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15. **(Amended)** The device of Claim 17, wherein the message packet is a physical layer message packet and the data packet comprises a message packet associated with a higher level protocol comprising one of:

Internet Protocol (IP);

Transmission Control Protocol (TCP); and

User Datagram Protocol (UDP)

16. **(Amended)** The device of Claim 17, wherein the sender is operable to communicate the data packet to one or more identified receivers as a point-to-point, multi-cast, or broadcast message according to the destination code.

17. **(Amended)** A telecommunications device, comprising:  
a local area network;  
a plurality of receivers coupled to the network; and  
a sender coupled to the network and operable to generate a message packet comprising a destination code and a data packet, the destination code having values for a plurality of positions, each position corresponding to a particular receiver, the sender operable to identify one or more receivers for the data packet according to the values of the positions corresponding to the receivers, the sender operable to communicate the data packet to the identified receivers;

the sender operable to communicate the destination code to each receiver, each receiver having an associated receive code comprising values for a plurality of positions, each

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position corresponding to a particular receiver, each receiver operable to receive the destination code and to compare the value for at least one position of the destination code with the value for at least one position of the receive code, each receiver operable to determine whether to receive the data packet according to the comparison.

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18. The device of Claim 17, wherein at least one of the receivers is operable to perform network snooping according to its associated receive code.

20. **(Allowed)** The message packet of Claim 23, wherein the device is a switching unit comprising a backplane and the network comprises a control bus.

21. **(Allowed)** The message packet of Claim 23, wherein the message packet is a physical layer message packet and the data packet comprises a message packet associated with a higher level protocol comprising one of:

Internet Protocol (IP);  
Transmission Control Protocol (TCP); and  
User Datagram Protocol (UDP).

23. **(Allowed)** A message packet for communication using a local area network within a telecommunications device, comprising:

a data packet; and

an arbitration code comprising a message priority code and a sender address, a first value of the arbitration code operable to be communicated using the network and to be compared with a network value to determine whether the sender may communicate the data packet to the receiver using the network, a second value of the arbitration code operable to be communicated using the network if the first value matches the network value, the first and second values of the arbitration code comprising one of:

first and second message priority code values;  
a first message priority code value and a second sender address value; and  
~~first and second sender address values.~~

24. **(Allowed)** The message packet of Claim 23, further comprising a destination code, the data packet operable to be communicated to one or more receivers as a point-to-point, multi-cast, or broadcast message according to the destination code.

25. **(Allowed)** A message packet for communication using a local area network within a telecommunications device, comprising:

a data packet;

an arbitration code comprising a message priority code and a sender address, a first value of the arbitration code operable to be communicated using the network and to be compared with a network value to determine whether the sender may communicate the data packet to the receiver using the network; and

a destination code having values for a plurality of positions, each position corresponding to a particular receiver, the values of the positions identifying one or more receivers for the data packet.

26. **(Allowed)** The message packet of Claim 25, wherein the value for at least one position of the destination code is operable to be compared with a value for at least one position of a receive code associated with a receiver to determine whether the receiver will receive the data packet.

28. **(Allowed)** The method of Claim 33, wherein the device is a switching unit having a backplane and the network comprises a control bus.

29. **(Allowed)** The method of Claim 33, wherein the message packet is a physical layer message packet and the data packet comprises a message packet associated with a higher level protocol comprising one of:

Internet Protocol (IP);

Transmission Control Protocol (TCP); and

User Datagram Protocol (UDP).

30. **(Allowed)** The method of Claim 33, wherein the arbitration code comprises:  
a message priority code; and  
a sender address.

31. **(Allowed)** The method of Claim 33, wherein determining whether to communicate the data packet comprises:

determining that the first value does not match the network value; and  
determining not to communicate the data packet.

33. **(Allowed)** A method of communicating a data packet using a local area network within a telecommunications device, comprising:

generating a message packet comprising an arbitration code and the data packet;  
communicating a first value of the arbitration code using the network;  
determining a network value;  
determining that the first value matches the network value;  
communicating a second value of the arbitration code; and  
determining whether to communicate the data packet using the network;  
the first and second values of the arbitration code comprising one of:

first and second message priority code values;  
a first message priority code value and a second sender address value; and  
first and second sender address values.

34. **(Allowed)** The method of Claim 33, further comprising:  
generating a second message packet comprising an arbitration code and a data packet;  
communicating a first value of the arbitration code for the second message packet using the network;

determining the network value;  
comparing the first value for the second message packet with the network value; and  
determining whether to communicate the data packet for the second message packet using the network.

35. **(Allowed)** The method of Claim 33, wherein the message packet further comprises a destination code, the method further comprising communicating the data packet to one or more receivers as a point-to-point, multi-cast, or broadcast message according to the destination code.

36. **(Allowed)** A method of communicating a data packet using a local area network within a telecommunications device, comprising:

generating a message packet comprising an arbitration code, the data packet, and a destination code having values for a plurality of positions, each position corresponding to a particular receiver;

identifying one or more receivers for the message packet according to the values of the positions corresponding to the receivers;

communicating a first value of the arbitration code using the network;

determining a network value;

comparing the first value with the network value; and

determining whether to communicate the data packet using the network.

37. **(Allowed)** The method of Claim 36, further comprising:

receiving the destination code;

comparing the value for at least one position of the destination code with the value for at least one position of a receive code, the receive code associated with a receiver and comprising values for a plurality of positions, each position corresponding to a particular receiver; and

determining whether to receive the data packet according to the comparison.

38. **(Allowed)** The method of Claim 37, further comprising snooping on the network according to the receive code.

**Please cancel Claim 39 without prejudice or disclaimer.**

40. **(Amended)** The method of Claim 43, wherein the device is a switching unit having a backplane and the network comprises a control bus.

41. **(Amended)** The method of Claim 43, wherein the message packet is a physical layer message packet and the data packet comprises a message packet associated with a higher level protocol comprising one of:

Internet Protocol (IP);

Transmission Control Protocol (TCP); and  
User Datagram Protocol (UDP).

42. **(Amended)** The method of Claim 43, wherein communicating the data packet comprises communicating the data packet to one or more receivers as a point-to-point, multi-cast, or broadcast message according to the destination code.

43. **(Amended)** A method of communicating a data packet using a local area network within a telecommunications device, comprising:

generating a message packet comprising a destination code and the data packet, the destination code having values for a plurality of positions, each of the positions corresponding to a particular receiver;

identifying one or more receivers for the data packet according to the values of the positions corresponding to the receivers;

communicating the data packet to the identified receivers using the network;

receiving the destination code;

comparing the value for at least one position of the destination code with the value for at least one position of a receive code, the receive code associated with a receiver and comprising values for a plurality of positions, each position corresponding to a particular receiver; and

determining whether to receive the data packet according to the comparison.

44. The method of Claim 43, further comprising snooping on the network according to the receive code.

45. **(Allowed)** Logic for communicating a data packet using a local area network within a telecommunications device, the logic encoded in media and operable to:

generate a message packet comprising an arbitration code and the data packet;

communicate a first value of the arbitration code using the network;

determine a network value;

determine that the first value matches the network value;

communicate a second value of the arbitration code; and

determine whether to communicate the data packet using the network;



the first and second values of the arbitration code comprising one of:

- first and second message priority code values;
- a first message priority code value and a second sender address value; and
- first and second sender address values.

46. **(Allowed)** The logic of Claim 45, wherein the device is a switching unit having a backplane and the network comprises a control bus.

47. **(Allowed)** The logic of Claim 45, wherein the message packet is a physical layer message packet and the data packet comprises a message packet associated with a higher level protocol comprising one of:

- Internet Protocol (IP);
- Transmission Control Protocol (TCP); and
- User Datagram Protocol (UDP).

48. **(Allowed)** The logic of Claim 45, wherein the arbitration code comprises:  
a message priority code; and  
a sender address.

49. **(Allowed)** The logic of Claim 45, wherein the logic operable to determine whether to communicate the data packet comprises the logic operable to:  
determine that the first value does not match the network value; and  
determine not to communicate the data packet.

50. **(Allowed)** The logic of Claim 45, further operable to:  
generate a second message packet comprising an arbitration code and a data packet;  
communicate a first value of the arbitration code for the second message packet using the network;  
determine the network value;  
compare the first value for the second message packet with the network value; and  
determine whether to communicate the data packet for the second message packet using the network.

51. **(Allowed)** The logic of Claim 45, wherein the message packet further comprises a destination code, the logic further operable to communicate the data packet to one or more receivers as a point-to-point, multi-cast, or broadcast message according to the destination code.

52. **(Allowed)** Logic for communicating a data packet using a local area network within a telecommunications device, the logic encoded in media and operable to:

generate a message packet comprising an arbitration code, the data packet, and a destination code having values for a plurality of positions, each position corresponding to a particular receiver;

identify one or more receivers for the message packet according to the values of the positions corresponding to the receivers;

communicate a first value of the arbitration code using the network;

determine a network value;

compare the first value with the network value; and

determine whether to communicate the data packet using the network.

53. **(Allowed)** The logic of Claim 52, further operable to:

receive the destination code;

compare the value for at least one position of the destination code with the value for at least one position of a receive code, the receive code associated with a receiver and comprising values for a plurality of positions, each position corresponding to a particular receiver; and

determine whether to receive the data packet according to the comparison.

54. **(Allowed)** The logic of Claim 53, further operable to snoop on the network according to the receive code.

**Please cancel Claim 55 without prejudice or disclaimer.**

56. **(Amended)** The logic of Claim 59, wherein the device is a switching unit having a backplane and the network comprises a control bus.

57. **(Amended)** The logic of Claim 59, wherein the message packet is a physical layer message packet and the data packet comprises a message packet associated with a higher level protocol comprising one of:

Internet Protocol (IP);  
Transmission Control Protocol (TCP); and  
User Datagram Protocol (UDP).

58. **(Amended)** The logic of Claim 59, wherein the logic operable to communicate the data packet comprises the logic operable to communicate the data packet to one or more receivers as a point-to-point, multi-cast, or broadcast message according to the destination code.

59. **(Amended)** Logic for communicating a data packet using a local area network within a telecommunications device, the logic encoded in media and operable to:

generate a message packet comprising a destination code and the data packet, the destination code having values for a plurality of positions, each of the positions corresponding to a particular receiver;

identify one or more receivers for the data packet according to the values of the positions corresponding to the receivers;

communicate the data packet to the identified receivers using the network;

receive the destination code;

compare the value for at least one position of the destination code with the value for at least one position of a receive code, the receive code associated with a receiver and comprising values for a plurality of positions, each position corresponding to a particular receiver; and

determine whether to receive the data packet according to the comparison.

60. The logic of Claim 59, further operable to snooping on the network according to the receive code.

**Please cancel Claim 61 without prejudice or disclaimer.**

62. **(Amended)** The message packet of Claim 65, wherein the device is a switching unit further comprising a backplane and the network comprises a control bus.

63. **(Amended)** The message packet of Claim 65, wherein the message packet is a physical layer message packet and the data packet comprises a message packet associated with a higher level protocol comprising one of:

Internet Protocol (IP);

Transmission Control Protocol (TCP); and

User Datagram Protocol (UDP).

64. **(Amended)** The message packet of Claim 65, wherein the data packet is operable to be communicated to the one or more identified receivers as a point-to-point, multi-cast, or broadcast message according to the destination code.

65. **(Amended)** A message packet for communication using a local area network within a telecommunications device, comprising:

a data packet; and

a destination code, the destination code having values for a plurality of positions, each position corresponding to a particular receiver, the values of the positions corresponding to the receivers operable to identify one or more receivers for the data packet, the data packet operable to be communicated to the identified receivers;

the destination code operable to be communicated to each receiver, each receiver having an associated receive code comprising values for a plurality of positions, each position corresponding to a particular receiver, the destination code operable to be received by each receiver and the value for at least one position of the destination code compared with the value for at least one position of the receive code by the receiver to determine whether to receive the data packet.

66. **(Allowed)** A telecommunications device, comprising:  
means for generating a message packet comprising an arbitration code and the data packet;

means for communicating a first value of the arbitration code using the network;

means for determining a network value;

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means for determining that the first value matches the network value;  
means for communicating a second value of the arbitration code; and  
means for determining whether to communicate the data packet using the network;  
the first and second values of the arbitration code comprising one of:  
first and second message priority code values;  
a first message priority code value and a second sender address value; and  
first and second sender address values.

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